

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm. Selectmen present were: James McIlroy and Michael Woodworth. Wes Moore joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Lt. Gould, Chief Reed, Brian Knipstein, Sue McKinnon, Jamie Thompson, Joe Stark, and Michael Kahlke.

The meeting went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II – a personnel matter. The meeting re-opened to the public at 6:50pm.

Brian Knipstein advised the Selectmen that his budget for 2007 will be used up by the end of the year because of the recent snowstorms. He also gave an estimate to the Selectmen of \$30,000. to replace the wall at Badger Park.

The Arends and the Freams complained to the Selectmen about the non-plowing of the sidewalks after the last snowstorm. The specific complaint was that children had to walk in the street instead of on the sidewalks. Other options to walking in the street would be: drive your children to school instead of walking, walk with the children on the sidewalk, or keep the children home from school.

James asked Brian to put together a plan of action for snow removal and include a list of plowing priorities.

The Selectmen have the authority “to compel persons to keep the snow, ice, and dirt from the sidewalks in front of the premises owned or occupied by them” by way of an ordinance. This will be researched by the Town Planner.

Clay Mitchell gave his monthly report to the Selectmen. He is halfway through the Capital Improvement Plan and will interview the various departments last. He will keep the Selectmen updated on this project.

The Prime Wetlands Public Hearing will be held this coming Thursday night. The Planning Board is moving forward with the public hearing to put the Prime Wetlands on the Warrant in 2008. They are inclined to include both Tiers 1 & 2 in the Warrant, but may change their minds after the public hearing. The Selectmen’s recommendation of including all of Tier 1 and a portion of Tier 2 was discussed by the Planning Board.

No progress has been made on the testing at the cell tower. Testing is re-scheduled for tomorrow. Clay noted that the generator now has a cover which should reduce the noise level.

Clay feels that the sign ordinance is fine right now, but the Selectmen may want to fine tune the temporary sign ordinance. Right now the Town may pull any signs on Town property or the right of way if there is an obstruction. The Town must call the State if they wish to remove any signs in the State's right of way because of an obstruction. No prior notification is required to be given to the sign owner. Any signs removed by the Town should be stored for a short period time in order to be claimed by the owner.

Sue McKinnon would like to offer mail-in registration renewals to the residents of Newfields. The Selectmen asked if a convenience fee could be added to the mail-in renewal in order to offset the cost. Sue will look into this and report back to the Selectmen.

Sue reminded the Selectmen that the Budget Hearing on January 15th, 2008 must be noticed in the newspaper and that the Warrant Articles needs to be available for public review.

The check to Plozik and Sanderson, PA for the 2006 audit will be issued and held until such time as the audit is received.

The Selectmen and the Budget Advisory Committee Members reviewed the proposed budget for 2008 line by line. The Selectmen discussed their meetings with the Police Department and the Emergency Management Department and the changes those departments agreed to make in their budget requests.

The Selectmen thanked the Budget Advisory Committee members (Jamie Thompson, Joe Stark, and Michael Kahlke for their hard work on the budget. They also appreciate the budget process being easier and smoother this year as a result of the Committee's work.

Checks were signed.

Correspondence from Plodzik and Sanderson, PA was reviewed.

Correspondence from the State of New Hampshire regarding a proposed location for the new Exeter/Hampton District Court was reviewed.

Estimates to replace the carpet in the Police Department were reviewed. The Chief was given authority to choose between the two estimates.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

An estimate to replace the front portion of the Town Hall roof was received and reviewed.

Warrant Articles were reviewed and discussed.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11th, 2007 meeting as amended. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

At 10:18pm the Selectmen went into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, III for a personnel matter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant